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Abstract

The present invention discloses a method for therapeutically treating an animal, including a human, for psychosomatic, depressive and neuropsychiatric diseases, such as anxiety, depression, insomnia, schizophrenia, epilepsy, spasm and chronic pain. Administration of a suitable DP IV inhibitor causes the reduction of activity in the enzyme dipeptidyl peptidase (DP IV or CD 26) or of DP IV - like enzyme activity in the brain of mammals and leads as a causal consequence to a reduced degradation of the neuropeptide Y (NPY) and similar substrates by DP IV and DP IV-like enzymes. Such treatment will result in a reduction or delay in the decrease of the concentration of functionally active neuronal NPY (1-36). As a consequence of the resulting enhanced stability of the endogenous NPY (1-36) caused by the inhibition of DP IV activity, NPY activity is prolonged thereby resulting among other things in functionally active NPY Y1 receptor activity thereby facilitating anti-depressive, anxiolytic, analgesic, anti-hypertension and other neurological effects.